

THE ECHO

HALIBURTON COUNTY

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No snow, no sleds

Is snowmobiling a dead sport?

GREG HOEKSTRA

Staff Reporter

Depending on who you talk to, Ontario's snowmobile industry is either alive and thriving, or a dying sport on its last legs.

For hobbyists, enthusiasts, and association members alike, the former seems to ring true, signalling to them that there's no cause for alarm. But for retailers and equipment dealers across the province, coming to terms with the latter seems the more realistic approach.

"Sales are to a point of non-existence, and it's hurting us," says George Schvarcz, owner of Haliburton Outdoor Equipment, a Yamaha dealer in Kennisis Lake. "It's sad, because there are thousands and thousands of people who rely on sales for their livelihood, and sales are virtually zero."

One need only look out a window to see one of the main factors that has pushed sales off the radar, says Schvarcz, referring to unseasonably high temperatures that have left exposed roads, lawns, and forest beds in a mucky state similar to early November.

"I hate to be the bearer of bad news but the environment is changing and we are the cause of it," he says. "It's just one of those years but, at the same time, I don't believe it's

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MARTHA PERKIN/Echo

He's got liftoff

Thanks to a drop in temperatures and snow-making machines, Sir Sam's Ski Area was the place to be over the Christmas break. The hills were swarming with ski and snowboard enthusiasts anxious to try out their new equipment and jumps. And with cross country ski and snowmobile trails not yet open, downhill skiing and snowboarding became an attractive alternative for people who say that if you can't beat the winter cold, you might as well enjoy it.

Winter economy needs blast of snow

GREG HOEKSTRA

Staff Reporter

"Let it snow, let it snow, let it snow," is no longer just a Christmas carol in Haliburton County – in recent weeks it's become the mantra of the local tourism industry.

As a community that relies heavily on wintry weather to prop up the economy, few people were happy with a green Christmas, which resulted in a financial blow for local businesses, accommodators, and winter sport associations alike.

"Sales have been somewhat disappointing in the month of December," says Andy Glecoff, owner of Haliburton's V&S Department Store. "We love our local people and appreciate the patronage that they bring to our business, but we really need to put the icing on the cake by having our tourists and cottagers here."

"Cottagers just aren't here, because of the weather. There's no snowmobiling or ice on the lakes for skating in front of their cottages, and the ski hill has only just opened," he adds.

Glecoff says changing consumer trends are also partly responsible for a drop in sales – particularly the appetite for high-end electronics, such as large-screen televisions and video game systems that are not available locally. But even still, he says, the amount of snow (or lack thereof) plays a large role in determining how the holiday season will play out for many local businesses.

"I think the biggest factor is in the weather, as far as the sales are concerned. We just haven't had it, so our snow

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Season is far from lost, but it is lagging

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boots aren't moving, our coats aren't moving, and they're not going to until we get some really cold weather and some snow," says Glecoff.

"I don't want it to sound like we're whining about it, but we're really at the mercy of the weather," he adds. "But we're all in the same ball game, and we all have to depend on favourable conditions to do business."

Blake Paton, member of the Haliburton Nordic Trails Association, says his organization has also been affected by unseasonable weather, but is taking steps towards adapting to a warmer climate.

"We rely on the Christmas season for a certain portion of our revenue each year but we've come to realize that we can't rely on that amount. It's not a guarantee anymore," he says. "So one of the things we have been

doing in the past eight years or so is spending a lot of time improving the quality of our trail surface and the drainage so that we can operate with less snow."

Paton says cross-country trails were open in Haliburton for a period before Christmas but they have since been closed, and will have to remain that way until more snow falls. At this point, it's too early to say whether trail pass sales are down, since the majority are purchased during the month of December and still need to be processed.

"Early signs were that the rate of renewal for season's passes was good – as good as or even better than some seasons in the past," he says. "Of course, that's partly due to the strength of last year's season."

Unfortunately, Paton also notes that the sale of day passes – most often purchased by tourists and newcomers to the sport – are "non-existent to this point."

"That doesn't mean we can't catch up," says Paton. "Last year we had a poor March break even though we had a really great Christmas. So with any luck we'll catch up during this March break."

"I'm not going to say it's catastrophic because we've been here before. But because we've been in this situation before, we've tried in the past years to really improve our trails. If you don't have that much snow, having a good trail surface really makes a huge difference," he says.

Holly McDonald, co-owner of Haliburton's Lakeview Motel, says her establishment didn't necessarily see a drop in numbers over the Christmas season, but has had some cancellations during the subsequent holidays.

"Usually our Christmas reservations are for people coming to visit family or friends, so that didn't change much. But in the days after Christmas I've had some cancellations from people who were hoping to snowmobile, things like that," she says.

McDonald says that as an accommodator, her clientele over the winter months is always a mixed bag. During the week she generally expects people visiting on business – which should remain unchanged for the most part. But over the weekends her establishment would normally play host to people looking to go snowmobiling, for access to the nordic ski trails, or to take a dog sledding tour, and it's those reservations that will be jeopardized in the coming weeks if weather patterns don't change.

"It will definitely have an impact on us but I'm sure it will with everybody," McDonald says.

One group of people that has been welcoming of the recent warm temperatures is the Dysart roads department. It has been able to cut down significantly on overtime and winter roads maintenance costs.

"We're certainly saving in our truck costs and sand costs, since trucks aren't having to drive up and down the roads, and we've also saved on overtime, so it's been a windfall for us," says roads superintendent Brian Nicholson.

Of course, Nicholson also notes that the work never stops for a municipal roads department; instead, priorities shift from one project to the next.

"The bottom line is that we've got more than enough to do, so what we don't spend on [plowing and sanding] we spend working on other things that need attention," he says.

"We're continuing to work on maintenance projects but no construction, due to the fact that there is some snow and frost out there. We're doing a lot of the little jobs that tend to get neglected. It's actually given us a great window of opportunity."

Nicholson says, "I can't give any dollars and cents [on how much is being saved], because I honestly don't know yet," he says. "But I can tell you this – it's certainly been a great savings for us."

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STEVE GALEA/Special to The Echo

A delegation of fisheries officials from the Qinghai province of China came to the Haliburton fish hatchery to learn new strategies that may help them save their Hucho bleakeri, a rare native species of trout whose range has been reduced to a

100-kilometre stretch of river in Tibet. Members of the Haliburton Highlands Outdoors Association, which has raised and stocked thousands of Haliburton Gold lake trout, gave them a warm welcome.

Local hatchery helps protect fish in China

STEVE GALEA

Special to the Echo

Neither rain, sleet, snow, or even icy roads and a minor fender-bender prevented a fisheries delegation from the People's Republic of China from visiting the Haliburton Highlands Outdoors Association's Hatchery on December 1.

The group, consisting of five fisheries and agricultural officials as well as the deputy minister of Qinghai province in north-central China, were eager to learn about the HHOA's successful rehabilitation of our Haliburton Gold lake trout. They hoped to learn new strategies and techniques that might also help save their Hucho bleakeri, a rare native species of trout whose range has been reduced to a 200-kilometre stretch of river in Tibet.

They also investigated the possibility of introducing Canadian species such as lake trout and whitefish to their lakes for aquaculture in order to employ native fishermen who have been put out of work by fishing bans on native species. The visit was their last stop on a whirlwind, three-week tour of several universities and Canadian fish hatcheries.

Yuxiang Wang, an assistant professor of biology at Queen's University, and the group's translator, says that the Hucho is similar to our own lake trout in that it too has evolved, genetically-isolated, in cold waters formed by glaciation. "That's why this visit is important to them."

"As far as we know this species occupies the highest habitat of any landlocked salmon, living at altitudes of more than 3,000 metres. But it is rare; so much so that it is included in the Chinese government's red book on endangered species."

Delegation member ZhiXin Shen, who is also the director of QingHai Provincial Fishery Environmental Monitoring Station, says, "Everyone considers Panda bears to be rare. This fish is even harder to find."

Wang, who has travelled to the region to study Hucho and "naked carp," a scaleless, coldwater species indigenous to the area, says that the Hucho now survives only in the stretch of river that is the common headwaters of the Mekong, Yangtze, and Yellow Rivers. "It is high up on the Tibetan plateau. To get there you need to drive 15 hours on poor or non-existent roads, but the landscape is absolutely beautiful."

He says that although they have been eliminated elsewhere in their former range due to climate change, over fishing, and habitat destruction, the trout have been protected in that stretch of river because of the



The Chinese delegation was very interested in learning how volunteers gather millions of eggs from Haliburton Gold lake trout, give the baby fish a safe start in the tanks inside the fish hatchery, and transfer the fry to outdoor ponds where the glacial relics grow until they're big enough to be transferred to area lakes.

isolated geography as well as the Tibetan culture's reverence for fish. The Tibetans, in fact, plant seeds according to fish spawning runs.

"Fish are sacred to the Tibetans and they are active in their protection. They mark spawning sights and sometimes throw rocks to scare the fish away from poachers or poachers away from the fish."

Though both Haliburton and Qinghai province are considered highlands, the Chinese province, which is not too distant from Mount Everest, has an average elevation of 4,000 metres. Because of this, Shen says that they are on the cutting edge when it comes to seeing how climate change and global warming is affecting high altitude and coldwater species. The area's 49 different species of fish, he says, form the heart of a complex and fragile eco-system that is especially important as a migratory stopover for Asian birds.

"Our work is somewhat isolated but it has global implications," says Shen. "Our plateau is considered the roof of the world and the third polar region. We are on the frontier of global change. These fish are being affected by climate change, and our studies suggest that any sign of change in the Qinghai plateau is a good global indicator."

He also said that the Chinese government is now putting more emphasis on the environment. "We're

trying to balance development and environmental issues."

Shen noted that Canada is a developed nation and China is developing. "You have much to offer in science and technology. We've learned a lot on our visit and continue to do so." He added that the delegation has great respect for the conservation work of the HHOA. "In a sense, we're all speaking the same language. We're both coming from the same place. We're both telling fish stories."

The visit was the brainchild of Dr. John Casselman, the internationally renowned fisheries biologist. He suggested that the HHOA facility was state-of-the-art and a good example of what the Chinese delegation needed, especially because of the similarities between Hucho and our own Haliburton Gold lake trout.

MNR biologist and hatchery advisor, Dave Flowers, says "We're thrilled that the Chinese delegation has visited our hatchery. It just goes to show how well regarded our work is, not just in Canada, but internationally."

HHOA member John Balls added, "When we found out about the delegation wanting to visit us, we jumped at the opportunity. It was a no-brainer. They want more or less to do the same thing we are doing, conserving and rehabilitating a native species. We're happy to help."

Ontario federation says sport has strong future

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going to get any better. I believe this kind of a trend will continue, with warmer and warmer winters, so we'll just have to redirect our lives accordingly."

If that seems a little drastic, Schvarcz points out that – in his experience – potential customers have already begun the process.

"The unfortunate part is that people rearrange," he says. "They rearrange their lifestyles, they rearrange their holidays, and so forth. And once that's been lost – even if you have oodles of snow after the holidays – you just never recover from it."

Others, however, remain optimistic that this season is not yet a lost cause. And some, such as Craig Nicholson, spokesperson for the Ontario Federation



Snowmobiling has always been an important part of the Highlands' winter economy. But with a slow start to the season, coupled with higher prices and insurance costs, it's not as reliable a way to attract visitors to the Highlands. The Ontario association of snowmobile clubs says not to worry. The sport will always be a popular way to enjoy winter.

of Snowmobile Clubs, say that in all reality, little has changed as far as interest in the sport goes, and the same goes for weather conditions.

"Over the past three years, permit sales have been right at the 100,000 mark, and we don't have any reason to think that is going to change this year," says Nicholson.

"Normally the snowmobile trails in

the southern part of the province don't get opened until mid-January, and that's the way it's been for as many years as I can remember. It's very rare for people in Haliburton, Muskoka, or Kawartha Lakes to be able to snowmobile at Christmas."

Nicholson says the reason that overall sled sales are down is not necessarily due to a lack in interest but the result of an increase in quality that has led to longer machine lifespans.

"In 2000 the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) started to look at regulating things other than motor cars, and snowmobiles were one of those things. The manufacturers of sleds at that point said they would have no trouble meeting the new requirements but that it would come at a cost of about \$1,000 per unit," Nicholson says.

"The good news is that the technolo-

gies that were brought in not only make everything EPA-compliant, but they also increased the quality of the sleds so significantly that people can now keep their snowmobiles a lot longer than they used to. Before 2000, the industry standard for turnover of a sled was one to two years. Now it's four to five years."

But even if the increase in price did lead to a longer lifespan and, as a result, more "bang for your buck," Schvarcz says that many of his customers don't necessarily see past the initial price tag, which can seem daunting for a piece of recreational equipment.

"The bottom line is, you cannot really buy a snowmobile for under \$10,000," says Schvarcz. "That's a lot of money, for anyone. To lay down \$10,000 or more to ride for January and February,

See Local club page 5



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Haliburton Highlands Health Services Foundation sincerely thank our Honourary Chairmen for our 2006 "The Reach for The Future" campaign, **Dr. Bob Heyes** and **Dr. David Fiddler**.

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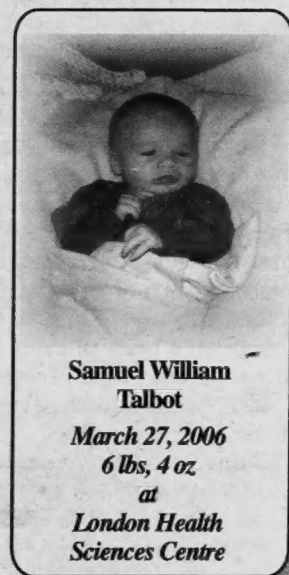
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Local club expects pass sales to be on par with last year

from page 4

then put it back in a cradle, that's really a lot of money, not to mention fuel, trail permits, and insurance."

Nicholson says that from 2001 to 2005 there was an insurance crisis within the snowmobile community after premiums were driven "through the roof." However, he adds that in the past couple of years the industry has rebounded.

"The situation has been largely resolved," he says.

What's also interesting about the insurance crunch, says Nicholson, is that it didn't necessarily result in a decrease in the number of snowmobilers but, instead, the number of machines being insured each year.

"What we lost were a lot of the casual sleds. In other words, if a family had four sleds that they were putting insurance on up to that point, it then became three sleds, and then two sleds. So the core sleds in the family, which are usually the husband and wife's sleds, would remain active, but the older clunkers that they kept around for the kids or the guests or whatever were the first to go," he says.

"One of the interesting results of that is that we've ended up with a much more environmentally-friendly activity, because the ones that were the first to go usually weren't that good in the first place."

Despite the sentiments of Nicholson and other enthusiasts, Schwarcz says that, as a retailer, the numbers don't lie.

"The trend of declining sales in snowmobiles has been going on now for about three or four years. My ATVs outsell snowmobiles almost three-to-one now," he says. "Eventually I think snowmobile sales will dry up in Ontario."

Schwarcz says that ATVs provide both work and recreation to their users, and for more than only two or three months each year. Likewise, whereas a snowmobile can reach speeds of well over 100 km/h, ATVs travel much slower and are considered to be much safer.

Nicholson says that the ATV statistic is not new, and

has been touted by retailers for many years but, when compared to the comprehensive networks of snowmobile trails, there are still very few places to legally ride an ATV in Ontario.

All in all, he says the snowmobile industry is more — much more — than just the sum of its often deceptive and misleading parts.

"When you put together the weather, the insurance, the cost of sleds, and the comparison to ATVs, anyone can make a statement about any one of those things, and by leaving that statement alone without explanation it can make it seem like snowmobiling is on a long, slow dive," he says. "But that's simply not the case."

Doug Mahood, president of Haliburton County Snowmobile Association, echoes those sentiments, and says he's confident that this season will be on par with years past.

"We've gone through many years where we've been in this situation, with no snow this early," he says. "You're always going to expect ups and downs with snowmobiling but it never gets going seriously until after

New Year's up here anyway."

As it stands right now, Mahood says sales of snowmobile passes at the local level are down only by roughly 10 per cent from last year, and he notes that there are always "late purchasers" who put off their decision until the last minute.

And, interestingly enough, Mahood also says that, in his opinion, current weather conditions have a lesser impact on the industry than the conditions of the previous season.

"Two years ago we had a fabulous season so last year's sales actually went up," he says. "Last year we had a shorter season, so this year trail permits have dropped a bit. In snowmobiling everyone's memories are a little short so depending on what the season is like one year, it will reflect on the following year."

"Yes, right now we're down by a little bit, but if we end up with a really good season we'll bounce right back up," he adds. "So I'm not really discouraged at all."

“Right now we’re down by a little but but if we end up with a really good season we’ll bounce right back up.”

HCSA's DOUG MAHOOD

Former Fleming president a member of Order of Ontario

Fleming College's former president, Dr. Brian Desbiens, has been appointed to the Order of Ontario.

A visionary educator, Dr. Desbiens worked in, and promoted, the college system for more than 35 years. He served as president of Fleming College from 1988 until his retirement in 2004.

In 2002, Dr. Desbiens won the Canadian College Presidents' Network Distinguished Service Award. In February of this year, he received the Minister's Lifetime Achievement Award, a provincial recognition of his work within the college system.

Dr. Desbiens contributed much to the college during his time as president. His leadership, dedication to institutional learning and emphasis on community partnerships led to the development of St. Joseph's at Fleming, the new technology wing and the Peterborough Sport and Wellness Centre.

His volunteerism has included working with the Frost Centre Working Committee, Trent Valley Literacy Association, the Greater Peterborough Area Economic Development Corporation, the Peterborough Regional Health Centre, the Peterborough Area Flood Relief Committee and, most recently, the Peterborough United Way.

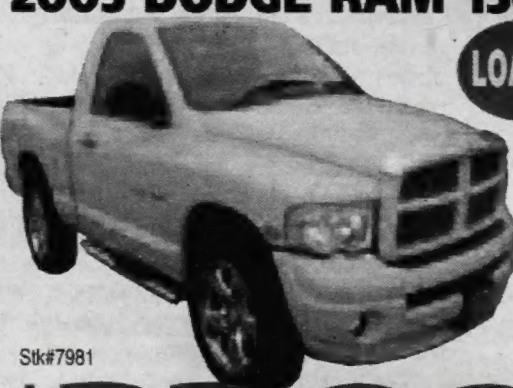
"As a mentor and friend, Brian taught me that education is a journey. His approach to 'life long' learning encouraged students of all ages to pursue their dreams despite their age. He encouraged me to make the most of my college experience and fight for those things that I was most passionate about," says former Fleming student Ryan Sisson, who served as president of the college's Student Administrative Council during the 2003-04 school year.

"I cannot imagine a more deserving recipient of the Order of Ontario than this man who devoted himself for so many years to being one of Ontario's most passionate advocates for young people and for postsecondary education in this province," says the former chair of the Fleming Board of Governors, Sandra Jack.

Nominated by Gary Lounsbury, former board chair, Dr. Desbiens is one of 29 individuals named to the Order of Ontario this year. The investiture ceremony was December 20 at Queen's Park.

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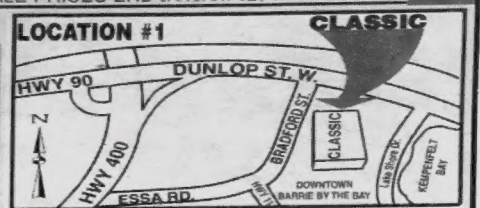
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Ideas, anyone?

EDITORIALS RUN THE RISK of sounding a lot like election campaigns. Like any political candidate, editorials can quickly point out what is wrong with the world but they come up short when it comes to offering any positive solutions.

What can the *Echo* do to make it snow? We can point out how much we need snow, and why our economy will suffer if we don't get some pretty soon – even a little ice on the lake would be appreciated by the ice fishing industry. We too can wring our hands about the threat of global warming, worrying that these above-normal temperatures are part of a trend, not a blip on the historical weather charts. All the pontificating in the world, however, will not change the fact that without the snow, cottagers and visitors have fewer reasons to visit us.

echo

editorial

martha perkins

So let's be more like Birdie Murphy, the dynamic woman who is retiring as principal of Wilberforce Elementary School. Every day gave her new challenges, new obstacles, but instead of

trying to solve each one of them, she concentrated on the ones she could actually do something about. She didn't let herself get bogged down by all the things she couldn't change.

First we have to think of some short-term options for this year. Then, if we're really convinced that the world is warming up and our snow season will be much shorter, we have to figure out long-term alternatives to snowmobiling and cross country skiing. (Do you think Sir Sam's Ski Area would let others rent their snow-making machines?)

What else can people do in a winter without snow?

It's a good time of year for bonfires and you can still hike along many of the trails you'd rather be skiing across. Local arenas can be rented for about \$50 an hour for skating parties. Frozen fields can be used as a safer alternative to street hockey. Perhaps we should borrow a page from Winnipeg's books and offer people more indoor activities. Our seniors have a social gathering place at the Community Care office; can there be something organized for young(er) people?

It's not as if the county closes up in the winter. Many readers will know of existing opportunities for fun and recreation, such as recreational badminton and basketball leagues; if they let us know, we can compile a list. We have to do a better job of promoting what we have instead of moaning about what we don't.

If it gets really bad in future winters, it may well be worth municipalities' while to hire recreation co-ordinators, people who are paid to organize these activities. Dorset has suffered a few blows, such as losing its school, but it also has a staffed recreation centre that is well-used and helps create a sense of community. If Dorset can do it, so can Minden and Haliburton.

Ideas are welcome. Editorials, like politicians, don't have all the answers. (They'd even settle for one or two.)

This is the year

Odds are good that the capital debt for the two hospital expansions will soon be paid off. It's been a long struggle, but one that everyone can be proud of. Six-million dollars was a huge amount of money for a relatively small community to raise. Once the community's share of cost is paid off, the Haliburton Highlands Health Services Foundation will be able to raise money for other exciting projects. It will be an exciting year.



Putting down roots

Photo by MARTHA PERKINS/ECHO

We're expecting

THE OTHER DAY I was sitting all alone making a mental list of things required for the upcoming ice fishing season when my wife walked into my ice hut and asked if she could speak to me.

"Sure," I said as I sorted jiggling spoons and tried to concoct several generic alibis and excuses for whatever it was that I was getting blamed for.

"I want you to sit down," she said.

I immediately stood up and stepped towards the exit. "What is it?" I asked.

"Well, I've got a little announcement to make," she smiled nervously.

"You mean?"

"Yes," she answered, while staring deep into my eyes.

"Oh, that's wonderful," I replied. "When?"

"I figure it will happen some time in mid-May," she answered. She was positively radiant.

Now, I'm not prone to tears or shows of sentimentality unless, of course, I catch a big bass or make a great shot in front of credible witnesses, but this time it was different. My eyes got all misty. I had wanted this for quite a long time.

"It was right after we went to that Ducks Unlimited dinner, wasn't it?"

"Yes," she answered. "Are we doing the right thing though? I'm not exactly a young woman any more."

"Nonsense," I lied, "you're fit and healthy, and it will have a good home here. I'll be right there beside you."

After that, I was at a loss for words. We had talked about this several times during recent candlelit dinners and while gutting deer or filleting fish but I never thought I'd actually see another one in this house until the kids started having them. I really thought those days were over. But here it

was - by late spring, if all went well, my wife would have a brand new hunting licence.

Immediately, I called all my buddies and reported the good news. "I'm proud to announce that this year, there will be another deer tag to take care of in the Galea household. Carol has finally decided to get her hunting licence!"

We immediately planned a stag party for her.

I can't tell you how thrilled I am. Now my deer tag will have someone to play with. And, if my wife really enjoys it, she might even turn her vast shopping skills to good rather than evil. We'll be mail-ordering camouflaged gear, firearms, and blaze orange together. I just know that this will bring us closer.

Nor will the duck blind be such a lonely place anymore. Hey, she's much taller than I am so this means, with the right set of waders, we'll be able to set the decoys farther out in the pond. This can only be good for a relationship.

Maybe, it's still early, but I'm preparing a new room this weekend. I'm going to paint it olive green, trimmed with a border showing really nice bucks. When our new arrival gets here, we'll be ready.

Yes, I know that sometimes new additions are the causes of divorce. But only if your wife is a much better wing shot or fills your tag regularly. We already had that talk and we promised each other that we wouldn't let that happen. We love each other too much for her to be a better shot.

"We'll need a new freezer you know," she said just last night at bedtime. "Something that can take care of both of them."

I nodded happily.

"By the way, I have this craving for venison jerky," she muttered.

Talk about a Christmas miracle.

the not so great



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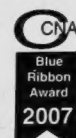
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Just when you think...

IT HAD NOT BEEN a good holiday for Roger. Just when he thought it could not get worse, it did. Now, standing in the middle of a snowy road, he shook his fist at the universe and cursed the fates for this latest slap. To run out of gas on a lonely sideroad in the early winter morning was one more disaster in a week of disasters. Well, maybe disaster was a little strong,



sharon
lynch

down
our
road

Roger mused, kicking the snow bank. He wondered how long he'd have to wait for someone to come by and give him a ride.

When the new kitten toppled his Christmas tree, Roger had laughed about it over the phone as he told his sister Liz. When his other cat threw up all over the wrapped presents, he had not laughed. But he had cleaned up the mess, rewrapped the gifts and carried on. It was downhill from then on.

The turkey was overcooked, crumbling under his carving knife. He had turned on the wrong burner and burned the mashed potatoes, his legendary claim-to-fame mashed potatoes. The kitchen had taken on that heavy dark smell of burning food turning black and crusty. It was that smell billowing down the rec room stairs that had alerted Roger. He had been down there wrestling with his DVD player. The machine had chosen Christmas Day to stop working, leaving Roger with a small pile of unusable movies for the holidays. His sister's children had complained there was nothing to do and had left a day early due to boredom. Roger had been insulted and this had only served to darken his deteriorating mood.

The chimney fire was the last straw. Fortunately there was no damage but it scared the heck out of him and he felt like running away to Mexico. Somewhere warm, with no cats, kids or machines to mess up. A beach and a thatched hut would suffice.

This was supposed to have been a quick trip into town to return the useless movies. Now here he stood, shivering because he had not dressed for the weather, with no gas can and a mental lists of 'shouldas' swirling around his head like sharks in a feeding frenzy. Roger was very adept at self-recrimination and now was no exception.

He decided to start walking, even though it was five miles to a gas station, which might or might not be open. Moving would keep him warmer than standing about feeling mad at the world and sorry for himself. So Roger turned up his collar, hunkered his chin down into his jacket as best he could, shoved his hands into his pockets and began walking. A crisp breeze, gently frigid, played about his uncovered head.

Fortunately, an old guy who lived on the other side of town and drove a rusty, shaking pickup came along and stopped when he saw Roger's outstretched thumb. Roger knew the man by sight and gossip but had never had a conversation with him. He was just very glad for the lift.

The man's name was Joe and he flashed Roger a smile as he climbed into the truck's cab. "Not a bad day for a little walk, what with the sun and all," remarked Joe. "Car trouble?"

Roger tried not to grumble as he explained he had run out of gas. Then before he knew what he was doing, Roger was listing all the things that had gone wrong for him the last few days.

Joe listened sympathetically, shaking his head, sucking in his breath and then sitting in silence. Finally he said, "Sounds like you'll remember this year's holiday for a while."

It is amazing how sometimes a word or phrase can give a person a whole new outlook. For that is what Joe's words did for Roger. A few months, let alone years, from this day, none of the recent events would seem disastrous or even important. They would just be things that happened. And life would continue.

Now Roger noticed the sunshine, the freshly covered landscape, the open friendly face of this fellow traveller sitting beside him. Joe's clothes were old and worn, his hands gnarled around the truck's steering wheel. As Joe took a turn talking, Roger learned of the old hound that had helped Joe pass Christmas Day by himself before visiting his ancient mother in the nursing home.

The gas station was closed. Before Roger could come up with another plan to get his car mobile, Joe offered to siphon off a few litres of his own fuel to get him to go. They continued on to Joe's place for a gas can and plastic hose.

It was Joe who did the siphoning, spitting out any trace he might have inadvertently taken into his mouth. Roger silently wondered how Joe had developed his generous spirit, considering how obviously meagre his means were. While setting about getting things done, Joe maintained his positive outlook, chatting about the deer at the back of his property and the birds that visited his feeder.

As he talked, the sun sparkled and the blue jays dipped. Roger no longer felt cold. The fresh air had served to clear his head and he actually felt invigorated. His dark mood had evaporated like snowflakes on a warm hand.

E-mail: sharon48@sympatico.ca



pic of the past

At the turn of the previous century, Sir Sam Hughes, who had to step down in 1916 as Canada's minister of the militia because of several controversies, bought a lot of property in the Eagle Lake area. He built a hunting lodge on the shores of the lake and hired local residents to farm the surrounding land. This photo of Sir Sam's farm was shared with us by Joe Iles of Haliburton.

letters to the editor

Meeting will determine future of Friends of Frost

To the Editor:

On behalf of the Friends of the Frost Centre I would like to thank everyone in the community who supported our bid to operate the Frost Centre. Your words of encouragement, your attendance at the community forum, your donations, and your membership gave us the will and courage to prepare a strong proposal.

We are proud of what we accomplished: presenting the government with an option that would have provided affordable and accessible programs for a wide variety of learners; helping achieve some of the government's own strategic priorities; and serving the local community in significant ways.

Contrary to what has been reported in the media, our proposal was not about opening the Centre as it was; it offered, by necessity, a new way of doing things. We are, of course, disappointed that we were not the successful bidder; we gave it our best shot. That said, it is now time to look to the future.

On Saturday, January 6, at the annual general meeting of the Friends of the Frost Centre, the future of the organization will be decided. Some options that will be considered include:

1. Continuing as a co-operative association to support, enhance and offer affordable environmental education programs to a wide range of learners and to support other environmental initiatives in the Frost Centre area;

2. Changing to a community foundation for environmental and heritage education that would develop and offer learning programs and services and support learning initiatives in the Haliburton and/or Muskoka;

See **Friends** page 8

Let's have ideas, not innuendos

To the Editor:

Now that the municipal elections are over, the court cases resolved and the smoking guns have been laid to rest, I would like to make a few comments about the election in Highlands East.

Never in my 24 years as a clerk treasurer, or as a citizen in this municipality, have I ever experienced such an election as this past one. The innuendos and snide remarks made by some candidates, why you would think this was a federal election.

Instead of degrading their opponents or their opponents' friends and families, they should have been informing the public of how they could better their communities, what they would like to see happen in their municipality and how they planned to do it. I have always been told that "evil thinkers are evil doers", so please do not judge others by what you are thinking.

Joan McCausland,
Gooderham

A boost to the spirits

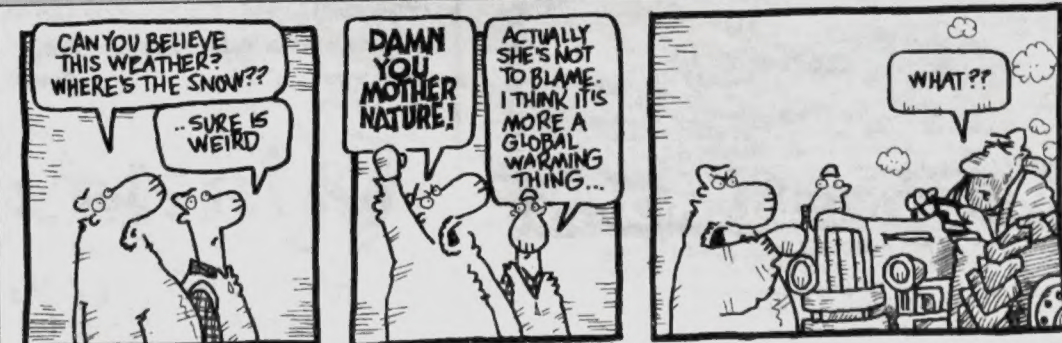
To the Editor:

It's a wonderful life if you live in Haliburton County.

First I need to briefly tell you how I have been feeling. I have had a hard year emotionally for many reasons and I have not had any Christmas spirit at all. I did very little shopping, virtually no decorating and I have been feeling totally down. It has been really tough

See **Smiling Santa** page 8

Boonieville by Charlie Teljeur



Efficiency is more important than gender

To the Editor:

Re: Martha Perkins' editorial on Tues., Dec. 19/06
Highlands East councillor Gary Stroughton showed his ignorance and disrespect when he made his sexist comment ("It's a man's job") on why he didn't vote for Suzanne Partridge as deputy-reeve.

In this day and age, it doesn't matter who is doing the job, as long as they are doing it efficiently with dedication, sincerity and compassion. That's something everyone should always strive for, in all aspects of their daily life, not just on the job. Respecting each other is a necessity. Men who have a problem with this concept need only to remember who created them.

Keeping an eye on Mother Nature's vital signs and the good women of Haliburton,

Arlene Johnston
Haliburton

Send letters to
editor@
haliburtonecho.ca

Smiling Santa brings the cheer back to Christmas

from page 7

to muster a smile at all. This is very unlike me.

Then, on December 22, driving back to work from running some errands, I got not only my Christmas spirit but a reminder as to why this is the best place on earth to live.

It was about 11 a.m.. There on the sidewalk in front of Teddy Time in broad daylight was Santa. Yes, that's right, Santa dressed to the nines from head to toe. Smiling and waving at all who passed by. I beeped my horn, rolled down my window and yelled "Merry Christmas, Santa!" I drove back to work with a smile on my face that I am sure will last well into the new year.

Where else on earth would that ever happen? Thanks Santa (whoever you are); you will never know what a difference you made not only in my day but in my outlook for the holiday season and beyond. Whenever I get to feeling so low, I will remind myself of how blessed I am to live in Haliburton County.

Diane Johnson,
Stanhope

Better choice of words?

To the Editor:

Thank you Councillor Gary Stoughton for informing all of us that Highlands East couldn't get any worse! Where were you two years ago when we decided to make this our permanent home? We certainly would have thought twice about our decision to relocate. We have unfortunately been telling everyone who will listen what a great area we live in. If our aim is to make Highlands East a better place to live I feel a better choice of words would entice people to help make it happen.

L. Dodds
Gooderham

Friends welcome support

from page 7

3. Transforming into a community foundation to serve other community needs; or

4. Dissolving as an organization and forfeiting our charitable status.

Obviously, all options, except the fourth, require ongoing community support and participation. If you are interested in helping to shape the future of the Friends of the Frost Centre, we invite you to attend our annual general meeting at the Kinmount Community Centre, (2 Dickson Street) on January 6 at 10 a.m.. Only members will be allowed to vote.

For more information or to sign up as a member please visit www.friendsofthefrostcentre.ca, call 705-488-2801, 705-754-3436 or e-mail friendsofthefrostcentre@gmail.com.

Max Radiff
President, Friends of the Frost Centre

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Tue, June 12 6:30pm-9:30pm
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Windows XP Maintenance & Troubleshooting COMP224
Tue, Feb 20 6:30pm-9:30pm
FEE \$45.96

LANGUAGE

Spanish - Level II LANG044
Wed, Jan 17 - Mar 28 6:30pm-9:00pm
FEE \$127.25

Spanish - Level IV LANG046
Tue, Jan 16 - Mar 27 6:30pm-9:00pm
FEE \$127.25

COOKING & HOSPITALITY

Italian Cooking CULN056
Sat, Jan 27 1:00pm-6:00pm
FEE \$39.70

Smart Serve HOSP019
By Appointment
FEE \$53.30

CPR AND FIRST AID

CPR - Basic Rescuer (Level C) HLTH057
Fri, Apr 13 6:00pm-10:00pm
Sat, Apr 14 9:00am-12:00pm
FEE \$58.00

CPR Basic Rescuer (Level C) Recert HLTH080
Fri, Apr 13 6:00pm-10:00pm
Sat, Apr 14 9:00am-12:00pm
FEE \$47.30

Emergency Medical Response HLTH079
Fri, Apr 13 6:00pm-10:00pm
Sat, Apr 14 9:00am-6:00pm
Sun, Apr 15 9:00am-6:00pm
FEE \$122.90

First Aid - Standard HLTH081
Fri, Apr 13 6:00pm-10:00pm
Sat, Apr 14 9:00am-6:00pm
Sun, Apr 15 9:00am-6:00pm
FEE \$101.44

First Aid - Standard Recertification HLTH082
Fri, Apr 13 6:00pm-10:00pm
Sat, Apr 14 9:00am-6:00pm
FEE \$85.60

DANCE

Ballroom Dancing ARTS817
Wed, Jan 24 - March 28 8:00pm-9:00pm
FEE \$97.00

Ballroom Dancing II ARTS832
Wed Jan 24-Mar 28 6:00pm-7:00pm
Wed April 4-Jun 6 9:00pm - 10:00pm
FEE \$97.00

Ballroom Dancing III ARTS833
Wed, April 4 - June 6 8:00pm-9:00pm
FEE \$97.00

Couples Salsa Dancing II ARTS834
Wed, Jan 24 - March 28 9:00pm-10:00pm
FEE \$97.00

Solo Salsa Dancing II ARTS836
Wed, Jan 24 - March 28 7:00pm-8:00pm
FEE \$97.00

COMP336
9:00am-12:00pm

COMP252
9:00am-12:00pm

COMP253
9:00am-12:00pm

COMP175
6:30pm-9:30pm

COMP337
6:30pm-9:30pm

COMP338
6:30pm-9:30pm

COMP339
6:30pm-9:30pm

COMP344
6:30pm-9:30pm

COMP224
6:30pm-9:30pm

LANG044
6:30pm-9:00pm

LANG046
6:30pm-9:00pm

CULN056
1:00pm-6:00pm

HOSP019

HLTH057
6:00pm-10:00pm

9:00am-12:00pm

HLTH080
6:00pm-10:00pm

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HLTH079
6:00pm-10:00pm

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HLTH081
6:00pm-10:00pm

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9:00am-6:00pm

HLTH082
6:00pm-10:00pm

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ARTS817
8:00pm-9:00pm

ARTS832
6:00pm-7:00pm

9:00pm - 10:00pm

ARTS833
8:00pm-9:00pm

ARTS834
9:00pm-10:00pm

ARTS836
7:00pm-8:00pm

Couples Salsa Dancing III ARTS835
Wed, April 4 - June 6 7:00pm-8:00pm
FEE \$97.00

Solo Salsa Dancing III ARTS837
Wed, April 4 - June 6 6:00pm-7:00pm
FEE \$97.00

OUTDOOR & RECREATION

Basic Survival Preparedness CART006
Sat, Apr 21 9:00am-5:00pm
FEE \$100.68

Boat Operator Accredited Training RECR030
Sat, Apr 21 8:30am-6:30pm
FEE \$65.90

Chainsaw Operator MECH082
Sat, Jun 16 & Sat & Sun, 8:00am-5:00pm
Jun 23 & 24
FEE \$122.16

Edible/Medicinal Wild Plants Workshop CART008
Sat, Jun 16 9:00am-5:00pm
FEE 100.68

Map, Compass & Basic GPS Navigation ART005
Sat, May 12 9:00am-5:00pm
FEE 100.68

Winter Camping & Survival Skills CART009
Sat, Feb 10 9:00am-5:00pm
FEE 100.68

RED CROSS SWIM PROGRAM

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SUSTAINABLE BUILDING

Backyard Clay Oven ARTS818
Mon - Fri, Apr 28 - May 4 9:00am-4:30pm
FEE \$241.77

Dry Stone Structures ARTS087
Mon - Fri, May 14 - May 18 9:00am-4:30pm
FEE \$241.77

Renewable Energy NATR037
Mon - Wed, April 2 - 4 9:00am - 4:00pm
FEE \$152.70

Straw Bale Construction ARTS302
Mon - Fri, Apr 9 - Apr 13 9:00am-4:30pm
FEE \$241.77

Timber Framing ARTS298
Mon - Sat, Apr 16 - Apr 21 9:00am-4:30pm
FEE \$274.86

Timber Framing Introduction to Design ARTS383
Sat, Apr 14 9:00am-4:30pm
Sun, Apr 15 9:00am-Noon
FEE \$90.12

WORKSHOPS

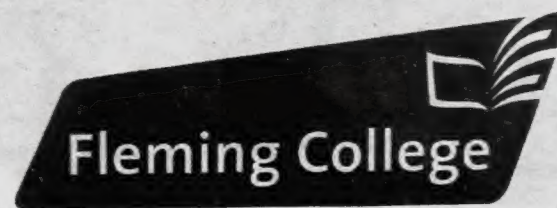
Makeup Application I COSM012
Sat, Apr 14 9:00am-12:00pm
FEE \$59.00

Makeup Application II COSM013
Sat, Apr 28 9:00am-12:00pm
FEE \$59.00

Music's Hidden Advantage ARTS815
Sat, Feb 10 9:00am-4:00pm
FEE \$65.00

Photography Workshop ARTS669
Sat, Mar 17 9:00am-4:00pm
FEE \$50.00

Pottery - Beginners ART175
Thursdays Mar 8 to May 31 6:30pm-9:30pm
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Bye Bye Birdie

Retiring Wilberforce principal ready for winters in the sun

MARTHA PERKINS

Editor

It's three days before the start of the Christmas break and Birdie Murphy is trying to wrap up the past 37 years of her life. But it's not going as easily as expected.

The woman who is to replace her as principal of Wilberforce Elementary School is being kept immobile in a Peterborough hospital, with two linear fractures in her neck as a result of a car accident. One of the teachers at the school has just found out she'll have to take time off in January for jury duty. Mrs. Murphy's sister is undergoing surgery that morning.

In the midst of all the chaos two young kindergarten students walk into the school office. They've heard that there's a dancing snowman on display. In an instant, Mrs. Murphy stops trying to problem solve and pushes the button that gets the Christmas decoration

MARTHA PERKINS/ECHO



Birdie Murphy's top priority as principal of Wilberforce Elementary School is to provide a nurturing and fun learning environment. So when the theme of her last school assembly focused on the meaning of the word respect, she dug out her old Aretha Franklin albums and cranked up the volume. "We're here to teach and learn but let's do it in the most pleasant way."

bouncing to the tune of an Elvis jingle. Even though Mrs. Murphy has watched this dance a zillion times before, the girls' delight infects her so much that she volunteers to get the snowman to dance again. The three of them laugh.

Mrs. Murphy has got her priorities straight. And her top priority as principal is to provide an invigorating, nurturing and fun teaching environment for the 61 students at Wilberforce

Elementary.

"I can't change what's happening to my sister, I can't change that the teacher is going on jury duty. I sort out what the issues are and deal with what I can," she says of her coping mechanism. "I try not to carry that baggage with me and I don't let it cloud my day."

"Deal with what you can and leave the other stuff for later. Don't waste a lot of your energy on things you can't change. I would never want that to be an excuse but I always feel there's a creative way to deal with things."

The previous night the school board had approved appointing kindergarten teacher Barb Davies, who teaches three days a week, as acting administrator until February 5. By that time, it's hoped either the new principal, Joanie Croft, will be recovered enough to take over or Mrs. Murphy will be so bored of the restful, sun-soaked life in Florida that she'll come back as principal until the March Break.

Shelley Godfrey, the school secretary, pops in to Mrs. Murphy's office to let her know that her sister called. She's out of surgery and is doing well.

Finding a replacement for the teacher on jury duty is ongoing but Mrs.

Murphy knows it will all work out. You just have to approach things creatively.

"Think simple," she says of another axiom in her life. "It's amazing how much keeps rolling at you. But there's always a creative way to solve things. You try and work smart. You work with everyone."

Yet as much as she loves her job, Mrs. Murphy is also mentally ready to retire. It's a long-standing joke at the school that the minute the Christmas break begins, Mrs. Murphy is on a plane to join her husband, Tom, at their place in Florida. "Usually I fly out Saturday and get those toes in the sand as soon as I can," she smiles. Usually her husband, a retired principal from Fenelon Falls, has driven south ahead of her but this year they went to her daughter's house in Toronto for Christmas. Then Tom and Birdie drove to Fort Meyers Beach together, a luxury of time that she's never been able to indulge in before. She's not quite sure of what she thinks about possibly having to return in February but she won't worry about that until the end of January. The things you can't change...

See **Don't** page 12



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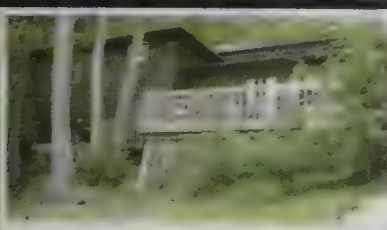
Custom built 2006, total 3100 sq ft, 4 + bdrm, 3 bath, cath. ceilings, prop F/P w stone accent wall, family room, games room, gently sloped lot, awesome view & deep water

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**RACKETY CREEK \$159,000**

Check out this great value on picturesque Rackety Creek. This 2 bdrm cottage is recently renovated with a w/o bsmt that is ready to finish, large deck, relax at your scenic waterfront w/waterfall & natural pool area for cooling off, shared deeded access to Gull Lake.

Lori Roberts 457-2128

**CENTURY HOME \$79,900**

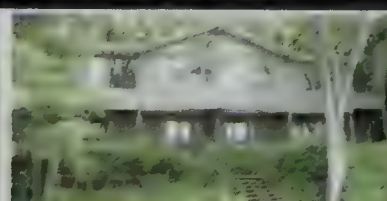
Highland Grove century home with easy access on Loop Road. Would make a great retirement, starter home or a weekend getaway w/a great view of the Highland hills. Easy access to many lakes for fishing & hunting & close to groomed snowmobile trails.

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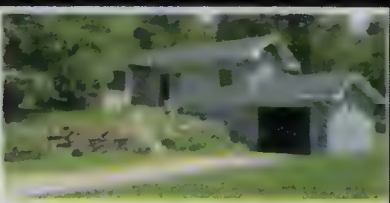
**EAGLE LAKE \$484,000**

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Mark Dennys 457-2128

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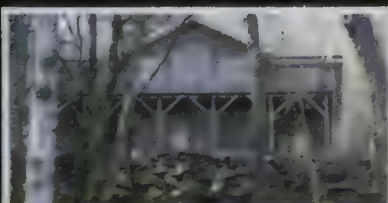
Magnificent 4 season executive cottage has everything on your Wish List! 3 bdrms, 3 baths, gourmet kitchen, amazing Great Room, main floor ldr., huge games room, full bsmt., 3 car garage & boathouse. Super waterfront on Halls Lake.

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**MAPLE AVE \$219,000**

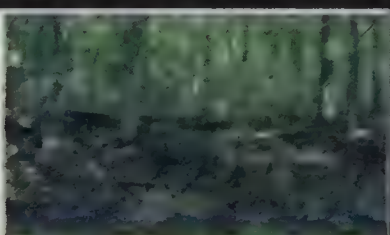
Charming older 3 bedroom house on a beautiful large corner lot in the Village of Haliburton. Prime location for residential or commercial use.

Andrew Hodgson 286-2138

**PERCY LAKE \$379,000**

This newly constructed property features reclaimed wood floors, state kitchen, DR, 11' vaulted LR, large master with w/o to deck, 270 sq. ft. of deck & waterfront, full open unfinished bsmt. with w/o. Lots of windows.

Drew Bishop 457-2128

**OVERLOOKING HALLS LAKE \$24,900**

Excellent building sight on Hwy. 35 w/great view of Halls Lake. Septic approval from Health Unit. Easy access to this great lot!

Drew Bishop 457-2128

**KUSHOG LAKE \$249,900**

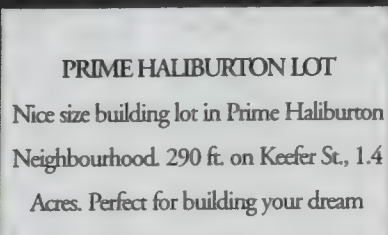
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Don't dwell on things you can't change

from page 11

Birdie Murphy was born Vogeltje Storm in Holland. She was two when her family immigrated to Canada and settled in Lindsay. When a new neighbour asked her sister how to pronounce Vogeltje, her sister explained that Vogel meant bird in German. "So why don't you call her Birdie instead," the neighbour suggested, saving her from a lifetime of people stumbling over her name.

As a child, Birdie knew she was going to be a teacher. "I remember having my dolls lined up, and my teddy bears, and teaching them. We didn't have EQAO in those days so I don't know how effective I was."

Life went according to plan when she started teaching in 1969 and married in 1970. Her husband was a pilot with the armed forces and they soon moved to Manitoba, where their daughter was born. Then her husband was stationed in Prince Edward Island, where their son was born. "I said, 'I don't care how many provinces Canada has, that's it - two kids.'"

A short time later her husband went to

MARTHA PERKINS/ECHO



When she arrived at Wilberforce Elementary six years ago, one of the first things Mrs. Murphy introduced was a monthly school assembly. Students who had achieved something special were acknowledged and even got a chance to win a prize. Here, two senior students pull out the name of the December winner from Mrs. Murphy's wellknown bucket.

the Middle East for six months. When he returned, the marriage broke down. They divorced and Birdie and her children moved back to Lindsay. She'd take short-term teaching jobs so she could earn enough money to help support her

family but have enough time for her children. As years passed, she "filled in" her time by taking courses that enabled her to rise through the ranks of the Victoria County Board of Education. She worked in special education and was a consultant for the board before becoming vice-principal of Ridgeview School in Cobocok. She was there for two years before putting her name into the principals' pool, deciding that with retirement in the near future it was time to make the move.

The job in Wilberforce was a welcome one, even though it meant a one-hour commute. Getting to and from work took out a big chunk of her day but, as is her custom, she made the best of it. "I said, 'Okay, this is what I'm doing, how can I make [the drive] as pleasant as possible?' I have my coffee, I have my radio and the scenery is beautiful." If the weather was too bad to return home, she'd stay in Wilberforce overnight.

One night her sister called her, worried about an impending storm. Wasn't Birdie nervous about driving to work the next day? Birdie said that since there was nothing she could do about the weather, she wasn't going to think about it and would deal with whatever situation confronted her the next morning. The things you can't change...

This morning is Mrs. Murphy's last school assembly. She introduced the monthly assembly when she arrived six years ago as a way of bringing the school family together. Each teacher is asked to choose two students worthy of praise, one for academic achievement, the other for demonstrating positive social skills. Those students are given special commendations and one of them will win a prize.

"I really think highly of children," Mrs. Murphy says of the foundation of

See **Choose** page 13

REAL ESTATE



REAL ESTATE UPDATE

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Choose happiest way to spend your day, principal says

from page 12

her teaching ethic. "They're God's gift, they're the next generation. Each one is so unique and special and worthy of our respect and care. I hate to see any child not feel worthy and good and special."

That's why she's prepared to stop her day to watch a dancing snowman with two five-year-olds. "Every child deserves that bit of time from you."

While school fosters academic excellence, she recognizes that not every student has the ability to absorb new things readily. "My heart's been a little bit more towards the children that are struggling a bit. I will do anything I can for the kids so they feel good about who they are. It's who you are as a person that will get you through life. Grooming who you are is so critical and so fun and exciting. Try to see the good in everyone and bring out the good."

She's an equally strong advocate for the school itself, lobbying the Trillium Lakelands District School Board to give it the attention it deserves and working with the community to raise money for all the important little extras.

"She's always out there pushing for improvements to the school," Shelley Godfrey says. Mrs. Murphy has also made the school part of the community and the community part of the school. After the school had five principals in six years, the continuity that Mrs. Murphy



"She's very kind to us," says Grade 2 student Dylan Smith. "She makes us feel happy because she buys us new stuff for the school."

has provided is much appreciated and has made a difference.

"You can really tell she loves what she does," the school secretary says. "The students have such an awesome experience here, just because of the size. It's like a family here."

As an administrator, Mrs. Murphy uses the co-operative approach. Take

that morning's assembly. Instead of telling the teachers it would be at nine, she asked them what time they'd prefer. Turns out that just before lunch was a good time for all of them, so that's when it was held.

"People do have a lot of control about how their day goes," she says. "Why not choose the happiest way?"

And why not make it fun? The theme of this morning's assembly is respect so she suggests that they play Aretha Franklin's rousing anthem. "We're here to teach and learn but let's do it in the most pleasant way."

As soon as she walks into the classroom where the assembly is being held and hears the song, the smile comes out and there's a bounce to her step. The children get in the mood and start clapping in time with the music; one boy even agrees to dance with her later in the assembly.

After patiently watching the senior students perform skits that highlight the meaning of respect, Mrs. Murphy hands out the certificates.

"It's so good that you know how to read but it's also who you are as a person that's important," she says. When one boy is acknowledged for a good mark on a test, she says that what makes this achievement even more special is that the boy is capable of getting good marks but doesn't always put in the

effort it requires. "If he got a good mark it means he really tried."

The rapport between students and principal is natural. There's respect but also friendship.

"I like her," says Jordan Dewitt, a kindergarten student. "I don't want her to go. She makes me feel good."

"She's very kind to us," agrees Grade 2 student Dylan Smith. "She says good morning. She makes us feel happy because she buys us new stuff for the school. We got a new climber."

Classmate Carmen Galea says, "She's always nice and she's a caring person all the time. Once I almost falled and she said, 'Be careful, Carmen.'"

The previous day, when the children had sung their praises to her at the annual Christmas concert, Mrs. Murphy cried. This proof that she has achieved what she set out to do - to treat each child with the respect and compassion that they deserve - means a lot to her. But so does the thought of not having to rush back to school so soon after digging her toes into a Florida beach. She's ready for retirement. It's time for a change.

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SATURDAY, JANUARY 6, 2007

Beaverton Royal Canadian Legion
517 Mara Road, Beaverton
10:00 a.m. to 12 Noon

SATURDAY, JANUARY 6, 2007

Haliburton Royal Canadian Legion
719 Mountain Street, Haliburton
2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 7, 2007

Lindsay Inn
354 Lindsay Street South, Lindsay
2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Please bring a non-perishable food item
to be donated to local food banks.

Audition Call HIGHLANDS LITTLE THEATRE

on Saturday, January 13
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Curling club wraps up first half of season in a festive manner

WENDY VERMEERSCH

Special to the Echo

On December 9 five curling teams from the Haliburton curling club travelled to Bancroft for the first annual Whitney Martin Memorial curling bonspiel. This event was sponsored by the Algonquin Shrine Club and proceeds went to the Shriners Hospitals for Children.

The winners were: First place Ted Wallis, skip, from the Bancroft club; second place Peter Slater, skip, Bancroft club; and third place went to the Haliburton team of skip John Smillie, vice Cheryl Smillie, second Bill Vermeersch and lead Wendy Vermeersch.

Other teams from Haliburton who curled were skipped by Jack Cox, Tom Parrish, Ron Barr and Ken Smith.

On the evening of December 16 the Haliburton Curling Club hosted its first Christmas party in the new clubhouse. This event was attended by over 125 people and catered by Janet Tice of the Kozy Korner. Chester Howse received a standing ovation of support and thanks for all that he has done as president and the club's executive have done to ensure that the room was ready for the evening. Music by Gary Cameron kept the guests busy on the dance floor.

Fall draw results are as follows.

Monday Mixed Daytime

First place – Skip John Smillie, Richard Rasmus, Doug Wagg, Sue Mason

Second place – Skip Al DeGrave, Bill Matthews, Sam Sneath, Pat Dickson

Third place – Skip Ed Pickard, Mary Ellen Sheridan, Robert Clark, Helen Baker

Monday Evening

'A' Winners – Jake Walker Skip, with team members Connor Duhamel, Ed Cyr and Curtis Nichol

'B' Winners – Don Wetmore Skip, with team members Larry Holden, Glen Smith and Bruce Bozec

'C' Winners – Bob Johnston Skip, with

team members Greg Scheffee, Bob MacNaull, and Andy Gruppe

Tuesday Ladies

First – Skipped by Sandra Duchemin, Carolyn Bebee, Betty Ablett and Eli Armstrong

Second – Skipped by Ann MacNaull, Glenda Wakely, Ariel Campbell, and Beth Redner

Third place – Skipped by Emily LaRue, Ann McIvor, Clare Byer, and Mary Ann Hodgins

Tuesday Evening Mixed

First – Skip Gary Trapp, Gerald Taylor, Cindy Trapp, Janet Tice

Second – Skip Emily LaRue, John Beadle, June Beadle, Bunny Scott

Third – Skip Bob MacNaull, Ann MacNaull, Pat Reynolds, Phyllis Bishop

Wednesday Mixed Evening

First – Skip Case Bassie, Brigitte Bassie, Dave Williamson, Eli Armstrong

Second – Skip John Smillie, Cheryl Smillie, Bill Vermeersch, Wendy Vermeersch

Third – Skip Al Aubry, Mac Ellis, Carolyn Ellis, Wendy Aubry

Thursday Mixed Daytime

First – Skip Paul Johnson, Ken Smith, Brigitte Bassie, Gary Macdonald

Second – Skip Bruce Martin, Elda Sedore, Barry Tigert, Mary Lou Waggett

Third – Skip Don Curry, Joan Eyres, John Beadle, Marilyn Wagg

Thursday Evening

First – Skip Dave Gray, Curtis Nichol, Aaron Tomlinson, Bill Woodley

Second – Skip Art Dawson, Peter Byers, Dave Reynolds, Andy Mason

Friday Senior Men's

First – Skip Del Watson, Ab Morrow, Jack Graham, Paul Isles

Second – Skip Glen Smith, Brian Murison, Al Aubry, Gary Bradshaw

Third – Skip Don Wetmore, Percy McBain, Dave Allen, Barry Tigert

The winter draw will begin the week of January 8. All curlers will be notified by their skip.

Good curling.



MARTHA PERKINS/ECHO

Winter is at Sir Sam's

The hills at Sir Sam's Ski Area in Eagle Lake were swarming with enthusiasts during the Christmas break, including Jane Williston, who got her work out jogging up the hill with her son Carter on her back as her daughter Sarah took the tow rope.



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Haliburton County Development Corporation

2006 COMMUNITY REPORT

COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS APPROVED FOR PROJECT FUNDING

Agnes Jamieson Gallery	Haliburton County Joint Accessibility Advisory Committee	Minden Agriculture Society
Algonquin Gateway Business Association	Haliburton Highlands Health Professional Recruitment Committee	Minden Hills Cultural Centre
Arts Council ~ Haliburton Highlands	Haliburton Highlands Nordic Trails	Minden Banner Committee
Canoe FM	Haliburton Highlands Stewardship Council	Minden Hills Museum
Children's Water Festival	Haliburton Highlands Trails & Tours Network	Minden Merchants Revitalization Committee
Community Care Haliburton County	Haliburton Highlands Writers & Editors Network	Redstone River Luge Club
Dorset Heritage Museum	Haliburton Sculpture Forest et al.	Ski Friends of the Frost Centre
EH! ~ Environment Haliburton	Health for Life Steering Committee	St. George's By the Lake
Family Services of Haliburton	Highlands Media Arts	U-Links
Haliburton ATV Association	Kinark Outdoor Centre	Wilberforce Curling Club
Haliburton County Folk Society		
Haliburton County Food Net		

BUSINESSES AND ORGANIZATIONS APPROVED FOR PROJECTS IN: SKILLS DEVELOPMENT, BUSINESS PLANNING AND YOUTH INTERNSHIPS

Algonquin Naturopathic Centre	Haliburton Highlands Chamber of Commerce	Pogo Industries
Algonquin Roofing	Haliburton Highlands Land Trust	Redstone River Luge Club
Applied Geographics Inc.	Haliburton Highlands Stewardship Council	Relax with Lisa
Arts Council ~ Haliburton Highlands	Haliburton Yoga	SIRCH
Blackbird Studio Design & Consulting	Highlands Media Arts & Minden Hills Museum	South Algonquin Trails Inc.
Canoe FM	HP Super Store	Stoneware Pottery
County Commercial Printers	Hunter Creek Inn	The Business Centre
Delta Pinestone Resort	J. Wruth & Sons Contracting	The Creative Cocoon
Divine Discoveries	Keaney Chrysler	The Diving Company
Dominion Hotel	Kinark Outdoors Centre	The Highlands Courier
Ecoscapes	Linda Seider	The Legend Carpet & Duct Cleaning Centre
Elite Cottage Home Services	Little Hawk Resort & Marina	The Outdoor Design Company Ltd.
Fay & Associates	Living Libations	Thermoshell
Fleming College	McKee Security & Telephone Systems	TMS Services
Firefly Media	Michael Fay	Tracey's Bistro & Grill
Gaia Centre	Of Sound Body	U-Links
Gerry's Electric	Out to Learn	Wedgewood Marine & Recreation
H&R Block	Patient News Publishing Ltd.	Wind in the Willows Spa & Acupuncture Clinic

BUSINESS LOANS July 2005 - June 2006

Summary of Investments:

Total Funds / Loans Outstanding	\$ 6,014,060
Total Investments	\$ 2,362,657
Total Investment Portfolio	\$ 8,376,717

For our fiscal year ending June 30, 2006 the HCDC disbursed 80 loans (EODF & Investment) totalling over \$2.9 million dollars.

Loans by Municipality:

Algonquin Highlands	9
Dysart et al.	47
Highlands East	4
Minden Hills	20
Total	80

Loans by Sector:

		\$
Communications	1	\$ 125,000
Construction	8	\$ 282,874
Forestry	13	\$ 323,287
Manufacturing	4	\$ 264,961
Retail	15	\$ 678,892
Service	32	\$ 980,809
Tourism	6	\$ 250,221
Agriculture	1	\$ 90,000
Total	80	\$ 2,996,045

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community calendar

What's happening in the Highlands

Community Care HALIBURTON COUNTY **457-2941**

We provide a host of services to seniors and adults with disabilities and/or illness:

- Meals on Wheels / Wheels to Meals
- Emergency Response System
- Home Help & Home Maintenance
- Social Recreation
- Telephone Security Checks
- Transportation
- In-Home Respite
- Friendly Visiting

People Helping People

www.communitycarehaliburton.com

CURRENT EVENTS

- **Jan. 6:** Snowmobile Driving Training Course – Pre register to obtain your "Motorized Snow Vehicle Operator's License". You must be 12-15 years of age or an adult without a valid driver license. Held at the Cavendish Community Police Hall on Hwy. 507 north of Buckhorn. Lunch is provided at a small cost. Dates: Sat., Dec. 16, 8:30 a.m.; Sat., Jan. 6, 2007, 8:30 a.m. Please call to pre register, Elaine Dittick 457-7038.
- **Jan. 7:** Down to Earth Conversations at Gaia Centre. Sun., 4:30 p.m. View and discuss. An Inconvenient Truth. All welcome to a potluck vegetarian supper. No costs. Please RSVP to 754-2427 or gaiacentre@sympatico.ca
- **Jan. 10, 17, 24 & 31:** A new series of Prenatal Classes is starting to help expectant parents prepare for the birth of their new baby. The Free Program is being offered by the Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge District Health Unit. The classes run on Wednesdays on the dates above. It will be offered at the Ontario Early Years Centre in the Halco Plaza in Haliburton Village. Register before January 10 by calling the Health Unit at 457-1391.
- **Jan. 11:** Minden Well Baby Drop-in Clinic. Visit with a Family Health Nurse to see how your baby is growing and developing. Held at the Ontario Early Years Centre in Minden (inside Sears Building) from 10 a.m. to noon. For more info, call the Health Unit at 457-1391.
- **Jan. 11:** Ladies Fellowship – 7:30 – 9:30 p.m. at the West Guilford Community Centre. For more info. Call Lyn at 457-3155 or Alice at 754-2808.
- **Jan. 12:** Relax while improving your health! Learn the gentle "moving meditation" of Taoist Tai Chi. Free introductory class in Minden. Beginner Tai Chi starts Fri. at 9:30 a.m. at Hyland Crest Auditorium, Minden. Call Amy at 286-3615.
- **Jan. 13, Feb. 10 & Mar. 3:** Rainbow Rounds Dance Demonstration. Donations to Hospital Foundation (HHHSF). Ballroom style dancing done by Bonnie & Dave Mowat. At the high school gym, 7-9 p.m.
- **Jan. 15:** Relax while improving your health! Learn the gentle "moving meditation" of Taoist Tai Chi. Free introductory class in Haliburton. Beginner Tai Chi starts Mon. at 10:30 a.m. at the United Church Hall (Pine St.), Haliburton. Call Ginny at 489-2996.
- **Jan. 17:** Relax while improving your health! Learn the gentle "moving meditation" of Taoist Tai Chi. Free introductory class in Wilberforce. Beginner Tai Chi starts Wed. at 1 p.m. at the Lloyd Watson Centre, Wilberforce. Call Brenda at 447-2148.
- **Jan. 18:** Haliburton Well Baby Drop-in Clinic. Visit with a Family Health Nurse to see how your baby is growing and developing. Held at the Ontario Early Years Centre in Haliburton (Halco Plaza) from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. For more info, call the Health Unit at 457-1391.

ONGOING EVENTS

- **Every day a new picture** of Haliburton County, and sometimes beyond. Just visit www.jackbush.my-expressions.com every day. A great reminder of why we all love living right here.
- **Haliburton Legion, Br. 129** – Every Wednesday night is Bingo night. Early Bird starts at 7:00 p.m.
- **Haliburton Legion Branch 129** – General Meeting – 2nd Thursday of each month (excluding January & February) at 7:30 p.m. Call 457-2571.
- **Royal Canadian Legion, Branch 636**, Minden holds its General Business Meeting on the first Wednesday of each month at 7:30 p.m.
- **For women** experiencing any type of abuse, call the YWCA Crisis Line at 286-6442 or (800) 461-7656.
- **The Haliburton Highlands Quilt Guild** meets every second Wednesday of each month at Camp Adelaide, which is on #118, between Haliburton & Tory Hill. The building is open from 10 a.m. for those who want to do some quilting, etc., and the general meeting starts at 1 p.m. with refreshments at mid-meeting. Guests and new members are welcome. Call Anita Dobell at 457-3723.
- **Ontario Breast Screening Program** – for women 50 years & over, screening by appointment only on Thursdays and Fridays at Ross Memorial Hospital. No doctor referral necessary. (705) 328-6175.
- **Township of Algonquin Highlands** – For adults and seniors in the community, Euchre at Club 35 on Mondays at 7 p.m. For more info call: 489-2945.
- **Don't forget that Community Care** offers Contract Bridge every Monday afternoon, Bid Euchre every Thursday afternoon and Cribbage every Friday afternoon. All card games begin at 1 o'clock. Call Ida at 457-2941 for more info.
- **Al-Anon Meetings** – Are you affected by someone else's drinking? If so, Al-anon may be for you. Haliburton Highlands Meeting, Wednesdays, 7:30 p.m.; St. George's Anglican Church (side door entrance), Haliburton; Minden Al-anon Meeting, Mondays, 8:00 p.m. at Hyland Crest Senior Citizens Home meeting room (north entrance), Minden.
- **If you are a senior (55+)** or a physically disabled adult (18+) and like to play cards, Community Care Haliburton County offers Contract Bridge every Mon. afternoon at 1 p.m., Bid Euchre is offered every Thurs. afternoon at 1 p.m. and Cribbage is offered every Fri. at 1 p.m. Call Ida at 457-2941.

Events listings are provided **FREE** for non-profit groups on a space-available basis. While we endeavour to accommodate requests for publication, we cannot guarantee that all requests for listings will appear. Requests should be faxed to The Echo at 457-3275, emailed to editor@haliburtonecho.ca, or brought in to the office. **Please submit events by the Thursday prior to the requested publication date.**
NOTE: This calendar is not a comprehensive listing of all events taking place in the area. Please check the classified pages, display advertising and articles appearing elsewhere in the Echo for more information on events in the Highlands.

Church opens its doors

Once again the bell pealed out on Christmas Eve at the historic Christ Church in Essonville. By the light of kerosene lamps and to the music of the old pump organ the people gathered. They came to worship with the singing of the well-known carols of Christmas. They came with their own thoughts, their own memories and hopes, and their own prayers. They came for the fellowship, the joy of coming together in community. Much appreciation goes to Joan Noble, Joanne Coumbs and Paul Way for their readings, to Elsie Lewis for playing the organ and offering the closing prayer and to Paul Way for leading the service. Thanks to Ken Jones, Elois Somerville, Ken Noble, and the Robert Macrae family and all who contributed to this fine service. The members of the committee who give time and devotion to the care of Essonville's precious building are much appreciated.

Our best wishes for improved health go out to all who have recently experienced some difficulties, especially Marion Tallman, Eileen Agnew, Joyce Holmes and Herman Poppe.

As we move into the New Year 2007 we reflect on 2006 which has flown by.

• Thankfully the municipal election with its lively, sometimes nasty debates,

and a recount is over. Council can now get on with current issues, and the future in mind.

• 2006 was the first year that the Country Good Times festival did not take place. After over 30 years the third weekend in July was a very quiet one in Wilberforce.

• The National Historic Site of Canada plaques was unveiled at the Wilberforce Red Cross Outpost on August 15. The Outpost had been declared a National Historic Site in September 2003, so the unveiling ceremony was a major event that will

long be celebrated in Wilberforce and area. Over 200 people attended including a National Historic Sites & Monuments Board representative, the Canadian Red Cross President, local leaders and former Wilberforce Red Cross Outpost nurses Elsie (Turner) Metcalfe and Marion (Campbell) Tallman and local nurse Ruth (Sanderson) Saunders who filled in at the Outpost when needed.

• Among the happily remembered events will be the dinners on Victoria Day weekend, Canada Day, and Thanksgiving, the Agricultural Fair in August, the plays by the Loop Troupe which included *Funeral Tea* and *Sports Legend* presented in Highland Grove in February, and *A Party To Murder* in October, and Remembrance Day programs. Add curling with bonspiels, hockey, softball, soccer and the Maple Syrup festival at Easter.

It was a good year. Many best wishes to all for the new year, which will likely top the old one.

community news

wilberforce

Hilda Clark

448-2018

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NOTICE OF COUNCIL MEETING TO CONSIDER AN APPLICATION TO PURCHASE ROAD ALLOWANCE MUNICIPALITY OF DYSART ET AL

DATE: January 8th, 2006
TIME: Any person who wishes to address Council should contact the Planning Department for a delegation time.

LOCATION: Council Chambers, Municipal Office, 135 Maple Avenue, Haliburton, Ontario.

APPLICATIONS:

The Council of the Corporation of the United Townships of Dysart et al has, by resolution, declared the following parcels of land to be surplus. These parcels of land are parts of an original shore road allowance located in the Municipality of Dysart et al, in the County of Haliburton.

Applicant: Pirocchi
Location: Kennisis Lake

- Shoreline Road Allowance
- Part of the Original Shoreline Road Allowance In Front of Lot 6, Concession 3,
- Geographic Township of Havelock.
- Defined as Parts 1 and 2 on a preliminary plan of survey, prepared by R.G. McKibbin Ltd., dated October 17, 2006, being available for review in the Planning Department.

NOTICE IS GIVEN that the Council of the Corporation of the United Townships of Dysart et al proposes to consider and if deemed appropriate enact at its meeting as noted above, a by-law to close, stop-up and convey the portions of road allowances described above.

BEFORE PASSING the said by-law, the Council of the Corporation of the United Townships of Dysart et al shall at its meeting to be held as noted above, hear in person or by his counsel, solicitor or agent, any person who claims that his land will be affected by the said by-law.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION is available for review from the Planning Department at the Municipal Office during regular offices hours (8:30 am. to 4:30 pm. Monday to Friday).

DATED at the Township of Dysart, this 21st day of December, 2006

Patricia E. Martin
 M.C.I.P., R.P.P.
 Municipal Planner



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The Times 286-1288

General Employment A800

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We would like to thank all applicants for their interest in this position; however, only those considered for an interview will be contacted.

Send resume in confidence to:

David Zilstra, General Manager,
Minden Times
P.O. Box 97
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dzilstra@haliburtonecho.ca

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General Employment A800

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Care Providers A810

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EDUCATION**NOTICES****COMMUNITY SERVICES****Coming Events** A940

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General Employment A800

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SIRCH has a childcare position available every Wednesday with the Community Action Program for Children (CAPC). Fax or email your resume to SIRCH Community Services & Consulting, Haliburton. Email: info@sirch.on.ca Fax: 705-457-5352 Phone: 705-457-1742

Coming Events A940

DID SANTA FORGET?..
If you did not receive a Highlands Summer Festival Season Pass this Christmas, there is still time to purchase them at pre-Christmas prices. Purchase your passes today at Kitchen's Etc. in Haliburton or The Storeroom in Minden. Four production pass - \$70; five production pass - \$90. Call the Highlands Summer Festival Box Office for details. 705-457-9933.

Coming Events A940

STEP IT FITNESS
Winter Session Starts January 15th. Cardio/ Step/WTS/ Fitball/ Pilates, Certified Instructors Phone Jane @ 457-1052 EX205

WEST GUILFORD Recreation Centre is available for parties, Weddings, Banquets, Anniversaries, Showers, Stages Bingo every Mon. 7:15 p.m. Euchre every Tues. 7:00 p.m. Full kitchen, bar and hall facilities available at reasonable rates. Call Alison & James at (705) 455-2365

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General Employment A800

PATIENT NEWS PUBLISHING

GRAPHIC DESIGNER

Needed

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Haliburton, ON

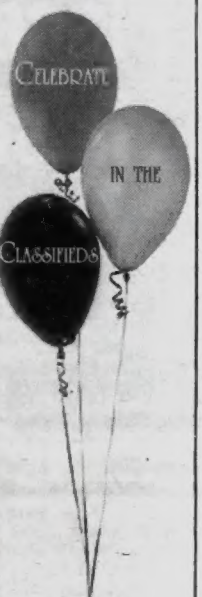
Mid-level Graphic Designer needed in our Design Department. The selected candidate will have a degree in graphic design and a minimum of 2 years business experience in a design setting. Attention to detail coupled with a true creative flair required. Experience with PhotoShop, Illustrator, InDesign & colour correction preferred. Patient News Publishing offers an energetic team atmosphere and leading edge working environment. Please forward resume to careers@patientnews.com, subject line: graphic designer.

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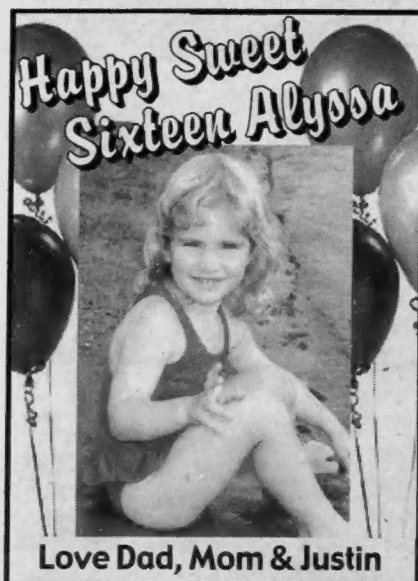
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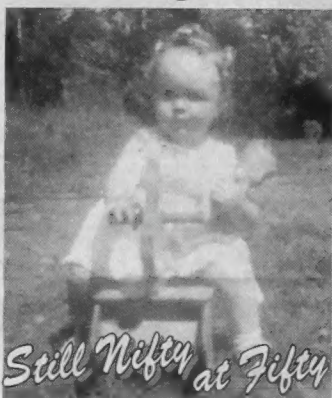
Announcements

Birthday greetings



Love Dad, Mom & Justin

Happy Birthday 50



Love Mom, Sisters & Brothers

Deaths

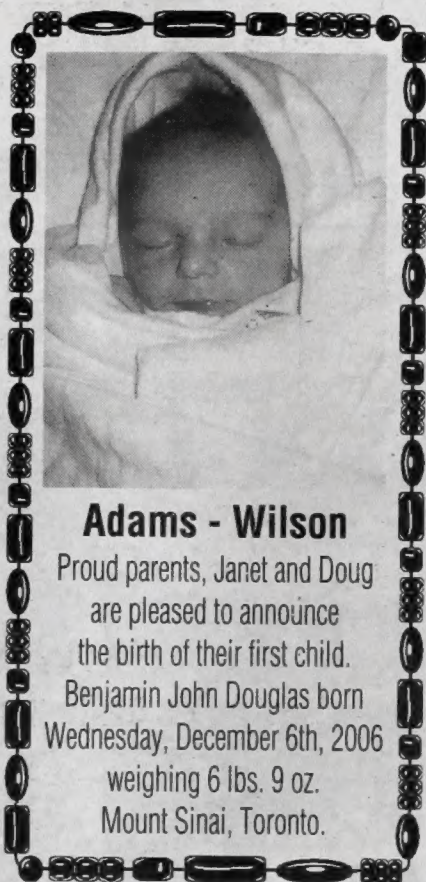
GILMOUR, Kim Marie (nee Gorveatt) - Passed away suddenly in Hamilton on Wednesday, December 27, 2006 in her 48th year.

Beloved wife of Tim of Hamilton. Dear daughter of Lillian Gorveatt of Minden and Rodney Gorveatt of Amherst, Nova Scotia. Dear sister of Michael and his wife Jacqueline of Roseneath and the late Rod. Loving aunt of Aiden. Fondly remembered by her grandfather Arnold Gorveatt of Amherst, Nova Scotia and by her aunts, uncles, family and friends.

A Private Family Service will be held at the **Gordon A. Monk Funeral Home Ltd.**, 127 Main St., P.O. Box 427, Minden, Ontario K0M 2K0 or online at www.gordonmonkfuneralhome.com on Monday, January 1, 2007.

Memorial Donations to the Rodney Gorveatt Memorial Fund would be appreciated by the family.

Births



Adams - Wilson

Proud parents, Janet and Doug are pleased to announce the birth of their first child. Benjamin John Douglas born Wednesday, December 6th, 2006 weighing 6 lbs. 9 oz. Mount Sinai, Toronto.

Monuments

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Thank You Cards

I would like to take this opportunity, on behalf of the residents of Extencicare, to wish every one a happy Christmas Season and a healthy, prosperous New Year.

Our year at Extencicare has improved every day: first with the renovations and then with getting back to normal.

With our annual bazaar, we raised all of the funds necessary to purchase all of Santa's gifts to the residents. We even splurged and helped residents put together a treasured gift for their love ones. The monies were raised with the generous help from Barbara Fawcett and Sylvia Claridge who made up many items, which were a big hit at the sale, and Olive Smith, for all of her knitted goods. Staff members supported us by bringing in baking for the sale as well. Thank you all. Betty Ingles, Muriel Willeme and Marge Baldry assisted at the sale so that everything went smoothly.

We had the draw for the items Barbara Fawcett and Carol Browne made up... the quilt, the carry bag and the table place-mats. The winners were, Scott Carpenter and Ann Maher of Haliburton, and Stephen Rowe from Lindsay.

The annual Country Christmas party returned this year with music from our favourite Christmas group... In Harmony. Staff did an outstanding job getting residents ready for the event, and setting up the tables and chairs for the festivities. Those who cleaned up afterwards made the place into a normal Extencicare, Haliburton.

10485240

Deaths

BAILEY, Peggie Victoria - (Peggie was a war bride and a long serving volunteer with the Canadian Cancer Society and V.O.N.) Peacefully at Haliburton Hospital on Saturday December 23, 2006. Peggie (Collins) of Peterborough in her 81st year. Wife of the late Merrill Bailey and Russell Neville. Dear mother of Ian Neville (Denyse) of Burlington, Bryan Neville (Marty) of Lochlin, Sherida (Terry Sibley) of Keswick, Christine (Gary Bailey) of Haliburton, Margaret (David Scheffee) of Lochlin and Graham Neville (Betty) of Edmonton. Loved by her step-children Johnston (Adela) of Richmond Hill, Candice (Ron McJury) of Erin and Rick Bailey of Myrtle Beach, S.C. Loving grandmother of Jenny (Chris Andrus), Angela (Isaac Gilbert), Jeremy, Tom (Joyce), Mike, Heather (Mike Dietrich), Cameron, Ian (Stacey), Michelle, Phillip, Brent and great grandmother to Dylan, Brennen, Bridie, Hudson, Sullivan, Skyler and Mikyla. Sister of the late Jean Barkham. A Celebration of Peggie's Life will take place at the **NISBETT FUNERAL HOME & CHAPEL**, 600 Monaghan Rd. S., Peterborough, (705) 745-3211 on Saturday December 30, 2006 at 1:30 p.m. Major Carl Bowes officiating. If desired, memorial donations to the Canadian Cancer Society or to the V.O.N. Friends may sign the on-line book of condolence at www.nisbettfuneralhome.com

10487353

In memoriam

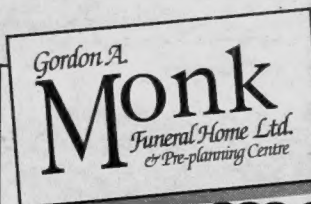
CRAFTCHICK - In memory of our beloved son Robert James "The Rig" Craftchick who left us December 27, 1997.

In a quiet country grave yard and where gentle breezes blow, Lies the one we love so dearly Whom we lost nine years ago. Your resting place we visit place flowers there with care but no one knows the heartache as we turn and leave you there.

Sadly missed and lovingly remembered by - Mom, Dad, brother Rick and Tracy, Sister Cathy and Peter, Little brothers Ronnie and Jamie, Nephews Petey, Owen and William and by niece Cheyenne

1048892

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Call Tracy Ackersblade



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Austen*
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Victoria Royal Home: Modern 4 bdrm. home, ideal for the large family. 3 baths, eat-in kitchen, separate DR, main floor office, full bsm., att'd. dble. garage, fenced yard, 13 acres, view of Maple Lake. A must to see!
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\$349,900

Tedious Lake: Nice property with 2 cottages, separated by a creek, creating private setting for each. Level lot, pretty view. Good beach area for kids. Year round access. Great family property.
Call Ken Barry



Linda
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ext. 231



\$279,000

Wilberforce Lake: Waterfront home/cottage situated on a beautiful park like setting lot. Large sunken LR, ash floors, oak kitchen, screened porch. Sand beach, western exposure.
Call Linda Baumgartner



Linda Beachli***
ext. 227
457-1011



\$229,000

Chalet Lot: Wonderful 3+ bdrm fully finished home on manicured chalet lot at Sir Sam's, a short walk to the beach & the market. Privacy, access, hot tub, swimming pool, billiards. What else could you want for \$229,000.
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Peter
Brady**
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Resort - Golf Course: The ultimate retreat w/excellent cash flows from 5 businesses w/over 3300 ft. frontage on fabulous Elephant Lake. Call now for a personal introduction to this outstanding property.
Call Peter Brady



Geoff Bunn*
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ext. 242



\$339,000

Canning Lake: Miles of boating. Great swimming from the dock w/shallow entry & sand bottom. A prime level lot w/southern exposure & a big lake view. This 3 bdrm cottage w/a loft is waiting for you. Lots of room for the family. The cottage has newer windows, vinyl siding. Also included is a sauna & a 24'x24' garage.
Call Geoff Bunn



Fred Chapple*
286-2911
ext. 43



\$345,000

Motel & Restaurant: Here is your chance to own this very active commercial enterprise on Hwy. #35 just south of Minden. Open year round. Many upgrades 4+ ac. Room for expansion.
Call Fred Chapple



Deborah
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Country Home: 2 bdrm. home w/loads of country charm & character on 3.2 acres w/308 ft. of mun. road access. Country-sized kitchen & dining area, farm-style wood ceilings, hardwood flooring, new carpet & ceramics, fin. lower level, 2 baths, decks, sunroom off det. 2-car garage. Perennial gardens & apple trees - shows to perfection.
Call Deb Deremo



Vince
Duchene**
457-1011
ext. 225



Asking \$199,900

Haliburton Village: Totally reno'd 3 bdrm home in Haliburton Village. All new flooring throughout including hardwood and ceramic tile, new 5 pc. bath, totally reno'd kitchen w/new island, ing DR, ing LR, new fully finished bsm w/rec room, idry, office or 4th bdrm, utility & much more.
Call Vince Duchene



Richard Forget**
& Iona Fevreau*
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Call Rick Forget & Iona Fevreau



\$64,900

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Call Lenor Fulton

Lenor
Fulton*
286-2911
ext. 23



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Call Julie Gray

Julie
Gray*
457-1011
exts. 230



Haliburton Village: Open concept, well maintained 2+2 bdrm, 1-4 pc., 1-3 pc. bath, raised bungalow. Oak kitchen, new island w/dishwasher. W/O from DR. New front door, sliders, new roof (2002), new tiling, carpeting, low maint. brick & new vinyl siding. Low heat/hydro costs. Central vac. etc.
Call Marilyn Hawley

Marilyn
Hawley*
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ext. 237



Now \$269,500

Ablett Court: This modern waterfront, custom built, 3 bdrm. home on the Gull River features 2 baths incl. an ensuite, full finished w/o bsm. w/guest bdrm., att. garage, large deck & miles of boating pleasure on a popular 3 lake chain. Central heating & air cond. Maint. free brick & vinyl siding exterior. Value-priced.
Call Bill Kulas to view today.

Bill
Kulas*
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\$649,000

Little Redstone: 2 yr. old 4 season cottage/home on L. Redstone. Exceptional privacy w/10 acres w/500 ft. of frtge. Sand beach & rock. Eastern exposure & expansive view. 3 bedrooms. & 2 baths. Finished w/o, pine finish. Multi level design, wrap around decking. Restful leisure awaits you here!
Call Cathy Lancia

Cathy
Lancia**
754-4242



Wilberforce: 1,860 square feet, brock & vinyl w/full basement, 10.6 beautiful acres with large pond & trees. Wilberforce, Hwy. 648 to Essonville Line, to 1026 Cockle St. Estate Rd.
Call Richard Moritz

Richard
Moritz*
457-1011



\$339,000

Billings Lake: Sweet, sweet, 4-season getaway, fully furnished, ready to roll. 170' shoreline, 1.3 acres, large deck big lake view, excellent fishing & swimming.
Call Karen Nimigon

Karen
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457-1011
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\$129,000

Affordable Cottage Living: Cute, cozy, yr. rnd. access, no winter water, great big lake views, sand beaches. Quiet community living. Full kitchen, sun-porch, swimming pools & tennis courts. Just bring the groceries.
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Tom & Gail
Tempest*
286-2911
ext. 41



\$179,900

Green Lake: Boat, swim, or fish the 3-lake chain of Maple, Green, and Pine from this cozy 3 bdrm yr. rnd. waterfront home/cottage. Features include: large picture windows, large screened porch, heated water line, hi-eff. oil furnace, sandy beach. Close to Golf & Sir Sam's skiing.
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Elizabeth
Thompson*
457-1011
ext. 248



\$659,000

Kashagawigamog Lake: Gorgeous new executive home on 5 lake chain, 3300 sq. ft. of living space, custom kitchen & working island, pine cath. ceilings, hardwood floors, 4 bedrooms, + ensuite, 2 stone FPs, w/o family room, sand shoreline, 1.18 acres.
Call Ted Vasey

Ted
Vasey*
457-1011
ext. 223



\$59,000

Bowling Alley in Minden: Fantastic opportunity to purchase an established six lane, five pin bowling business in Haliburton County.
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